

November 5, 2002, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please cancel the pending claims of the Group I elected invention (claims 1-8, 14, 20, and 25), without prejudice or disclaimer, and add claims 27-52 directed to the same subject matter of the elected Group I invention.

-- 27. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

- a. A nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence which is at least 90% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1836;
- b. A nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1836;
- c. A nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1836; and
- d. A nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1836, wherein the fragment comprises at least 500 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2 or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1836.

28. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 27.

29. (New) A host cell that contains the vector of claim 28.

30. (New) The host cell of claim 29, wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.

31. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, which is selected from the group consisting of:

- a. A nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1835; and
- b. A nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1836.

32. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 31.

33. (New) A host cell that contains the vector of claim 32.

34. (New) The host cell of claim 33, wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.

35. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27 further comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

36. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 35.
37. (New) A host cell that contains the vector of claim 36.
38. (New) The host cell of claim 37, wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.
39. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 31 further comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
40. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 39.
41. (New) A host cell that contains the vector of claim 40.
42. (New) The host cell of claim 41, wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.
43. (New) A nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fusion polypeptide comprising at least 500 contiguous amino acid residues of a biologically active portion of a polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 27 and heterologous amino acid residues.
44. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 43.
45. (New) A host cell that contains the vector of claim 44.
46. (New) The host cell of claim 45, wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.
47. (New) A nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fusion polypeptide comprising at least 500 contiguous amino acid residues of a biologically active portion of a polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 31 and heterologous amino acid residues.
48. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 47.
49. (New) A host cell that contains the vector of claim 48.
50. (New) The host cell of claim 49, wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.
51. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a. A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1835; and
  - b. A polypeptide comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1835, wherein the fragment comprises at least 500 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2;
- The method comprising culturing the host cell of claim 29 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.
52. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: